

# Tracing pasts: Genealogy fair is coming up

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If you're planning a trip to the D.C. area, you may want to pick dates that include Wednesday and Thursday, April 22-23. These are the dates for the National Archives fifth annual Genealogy Fair.

This is a free event and a great chance to learn about the records available at this great repository. According to the event notice at [www.archives.gov/dc-metro/know-yourrecords/genealogy-fair](http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/know-yourrecords/genealogy-fair) "The fair showcases federal records at the National Archives and professional genealogy organizations' resources for doing research on family history. We will announce the winners of the National Archives Awards for Excellence in Genealogy during the fair. The fair will provide information and guidance for experienced genealogy professionals and beginners. This event is free and open to the public in partnership with the Foundation for the National Archives."

The fair is organized into three tracks: Getting Started, Online Records and Databases, and Other Selected Topics. All the sessions sound interesting especially Track C which includes programs on Death in the Civil War: Records from the National Archives, Land 101, Native Americans: Scouts & Civil and Military Installations 1821-1920.

The fair will be at the National Archives Research Center, Lobby and Pennsylvania Avenue Plaza, Washington, D.C. As I've discovered, travel to D.C. is fairly easy. The closest Metro stop is the Archives/ Navy Memorial stop on the Yellow and Green lines. The National Archives is fully accessible. This is a great chance to get an in depth look at the federal records held here. Add a few days to your trip, and you can visit other libraries with large collections of genealogical records.

D.C. is also a great place for a family vacation. More than one genealogist has sent the kids off with a spouse to the National Air and Space Museum while they did their research.

For more information on the National Archives and its affiliated repositories, visit [www.archives.gov/dc-metro/](http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/). You may also want to read the National Archives Researcher News at [www.archives.gov/dc-metro/newsletter/researcher-news.pdf](http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/newsletter/researcher-news.pdf). It includes information on new items added to the collections and listings of scheduled genealogy programs and exhibits.